THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No reference from the State Government on Phillaur (Punjab) airport is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Progress in privatisation of Airports

1602. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government support privatisation of airports;

(b) if so, what is the further progress Government have made in this matter so far;

(c) if not, in what manner Government would make its airports services at par with the global competition; and

(d) the number of airports in which Government are going to introduce privatisation with the details thereof and what is the position of those as on now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Government of India having recognized the urgent need to modernize and upgrade the airport infrastructure promulgated the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, 1997 which taking into account that the airport infrastructure is a capital intensive sector and requires a long term planning, envisages public and private partnership in this regard. A new Greenfield international airport at Kochi, Kerala under Public Private Partnership (PPP) was commissioned in 1999. Government of India has already entered into Concession Agreements with the project companies of two Greenfield airports at Devanhalli near Bangalore and Shamshabad near Hyderabad. The project company for Devanhalli Airport, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), has already executed the relevant project agreements and the Financial Closure has been achieved by it on 23rd June, 2005. As per the Concession Agreement entered by Government of India with BIAL, the new airport at Devanhalli is required to be completed within 33 months from the date of Financial Close.

The project agreement for Shamshabad, Hyderabad airport are in different stages of execution. The project Company for this airport *i.e.* Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) is required to complete this project within 36 months from the date of financial closure, as per the Concession Agreement entered by Government of India with HIAL. Financial Close is expected to be achieved by September, 2005. Government has also given in principle approval for construction of new greenfield airports at MOPA in Goa for which the State Government has got a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report prepared. Government has also decided to upgrade the metro airports of Delhi/Mumbai through Joint Venture route. Government has signed Concession Agreement with project companies of Bangalore and Hyderabad International airport to which *inter-alia* contains provisions to ensure that these airports will provide world class services. Similar provisions are proposed to be included in the concession agreements to be signed between Airports Authority of India and the Joint Venture Companies in the case of Delhi/Mumbai airports. 'In principle' decision has also been taken to upgrade the Chennai airport under the similar mode. At Delhi and Mumbai airports an investment of Rs. 7961.00 crores and Rs. 6131.00 crores respectively is estimated over 20 years period at current prices. A list of mandatory capital projects have also been worked out to be taken up for implementation within the first 2 years and 5 years of handing over of the airports to the JVCs. There are also plans for construction of greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai, Chakan near Pune, Ludhiana in Punjab, Kannur in Kerala, Pakyong in Sikkim and Kohima in Nagaland which are in preliminary stages.

Efficient air traffic control

1603. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a substantial increase in the domestic and international air traffic in recent years; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government and Civil Aviation authorities for an efficient Air Traffic Control to meet the growing requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.